

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 AID-05

SCA-01 SCSE-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 FBIE-00 ORM-02 /093 W

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P R 092232Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2307

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 2741

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ASEC VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING - NO FURTHER WORD

REF: CARACAS 2691

1. HIGH GOV OFFICIALS MAINTAINED MARCH 8 THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER WORD FROM THE GROUP HOLDING CAPTIVE U.S. INDUSTRIALIST WILLIAM NIEHOUS, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS CARACAS HOME FEBRUARY 27. INTERIOR MINISTER OCTAVIO LEPAGE STATED NO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NIEHOUS' ABDUCTORS AND THE AUTHORITIES HAS TAKEN PLACE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE VENEZUELAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (DISIP), THE AGENCY HEADING THE GOV INVESTIGATION INTO THE KIDNAPPING, TOLD THE PRESS THAT AS OF 5 P.M. MARCH 8 THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY NEW CONTACTS BETWEEN NIEHOUS' CAPTORS AND HIS FAMILY.

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ DENIED MARCH 8 THAT THERE WAS A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPERS AS "COMMON CRIMINALS" (RFTL) AND THAT OF POLICE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BLAMED THE CRIME ON "ULTRA-LEFTISTS." PEREZ STATED, "THE FACT THAT IT WAS CARRIED OUT BY PEOPLE WHO ALLEGE TO HAVE A CERTAIN POLITICAL INCLINATION, OR WHO SAY THEY ARE WITHOUT ANY PARTY AFFILIATIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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DOES NOT TAKE AWAY FROM THE ACT THE CHARACTER OF COMMON DELINQUENCY

AS DEFINED IN THE PENAL CODE." THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT THE
POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE KIDNAPPING WAS MERELY AN ATTEMPT TO GARB
"A DESPICABLE AND INFAMOUS ACT IN A MANTLE OF DIGNITY."

3. INTERIOR MINISTER LEPAGE REFUTED MARCH 8 A REPORTER'S
DESCRIPTION OF THE INVESTIGATION AS HAVING REACHED A "DEAD END."
LEPAGE AGAIN AFFIRMED THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONTINUING TO
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LOCATE NIEHOUS. HE INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE POLICE HAS BEEN INTERFERENCE BY
PEOPLE "NOT INVOLVED WITH THE KIDNAPPING, WHO WISH TO CONFUSE,
BOTHER, OR EVEN EXERCISE THE VENEZUELAN WHIM OF PULLING THE LEGS
(OF THE AUTHORITIES) BY INJECTING FALSE INFORMATION." LEPAGE
REPEATED PEREZ'S MARCH 5 STATEMENT THAT THE FBI IS NOT INVOLVED IN
THE INVESTIGATION (REFTEL) WHILE NOTING THAT THERE IS NO
PROHIBITION AGAIN FBI AGENTS ENTERING VENEZUELA.

4. DISIP REVEALED MARCH 8 THAT MORE THAN 150 PERSONS HAVE BEEN
DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH THE NIEHOUS CASE.
MOST HAVE BEEN RELEASED AFTER A FEW HOURS, BUT EL NACIONAL
REPORTED MARCH 9 THAT 47 PEOPLE ARE IN CUSTODY. DISIP APPEARS
TO BE PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POLITICAL REFUGEES RESIDENT
HERE AS FOUR CHILEANS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS.

5. THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF RESUMEN CONDEMNS POLITICAL KIDNAPPINGS
AND BLAMES MOVIES, TV SHOWS, AND THE PRESS FOR GLORIFYING THE
CRIME. THE MAGAZINE'S EDITORIAL MAINTAINS THAT POLITICAL
KIDNAPPINGS ARE "TOTALLY WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION" IN VENEZUELA.
"IF FANATICAL, COWARDLY, AND MINORITY GROUPS CHOOSE
THE ROAD OF VIOLENCE AND EFFEMINATE KIDNAPPING," THE EDITORIAL
CONTINUES, "IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE FRUSTRATED POLITICIANS WHO HAVE
FAILED TO CONVINCE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY OF THE UTILITY OF
THEIR PLANS FOR A MORE JUST, PROSPEROUS OR FREE COUNTRY. IF
THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA SEE SOMETHING WORTH GLORIFYING IN THIS
COWARDLY, HOMOSEXUAL-LIKE ATTITUDE OF A FEW DELINQUENTS WHO
COVER THEIR FACES WITH STOCKINGS AND ATTACK A DEFENSELESS HOME
WITH MACHINEGUNS, THEY SHOULD DO IT AND SAY SO OPENLY. IF NOT,
THEY SHOULD CONDEMN THEM WITH THE SAME INTENSITY AND HOLD THEM
UP BEFORE THE PUBLIC AS THE DEPTHS OF DESPICABLE RIDICULOUSNESS
THAT THEY REPRESENT."

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